

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01514 112239Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6379
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1514

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO
SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR FEB-MARCH 1977 SESSION OF ILO
GOVERNING BODY (GB)

REF: STATE 28274

1. POLCOUNS MADE POINTS REQUESTED IN REFERENCE FEBRUARY 11
TO MINISTER COUNSELOR GONZALO SANCHEZ OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
INTERNATIONAL POLICY DIVISION, HIGHEST RANKING FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIAL AVAILABLE FAMILIAR WITH ILO MATTERS. AIDE MEMOIRE
ALSO PROVIDED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AS REQUESTED.

2. SANCHEZ' IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS TO SAY THAT HE WAS UNAWARE
OF FEBRUARY 14 GOVERNING BODY MEETING.

COMMENT: THIS IS NOT UNUSUAL CONSIDERING FACT THAT MOST
ILO MATTERS FOR VENEZUELA ARE HANDLED BY MINISTER COUNSELOR
ENRIQUE ASPURUA AYALA OF THE VENEZUELAN MISSION IN GENEVA.
END COMMENT.

SANCHEZ SAID THAT U.S. POSITION SOUNDED REASONABLE AND THAT
HE WOULD MAKE IT KNOWN TO HIS SUPERIORS, AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 11,
SO THAT GOV WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO SEND INSTRUCTIONS AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE. SANCHEZ WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE VENEZUELA
IS SYMPATHETIC TO ISRAEL'S POSITION, IT CANNOT AFFORD EVEN
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TO APPEAR TO TAKE A CLEAR ANTI-ARAB POSITION IN ANY INTER-
NATIONAL FORUM.

3. LABATT MADE POINTS REQUESTED IN REFTEL FEBRUARY 11 TO
LABOR MINISTRY CHIEF OR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEFENDINI AND
FURNISHED HER WITH A COPY OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE.

4. DEFENDINI IS COMPLETELY FAMILIAR WITH ILO MATTERS AND STATED THAT SHE HAD ALREADY OBTAINED A COMMITMENT FROM VICE MINISTER OF LABOR HUIZI CORDERO TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIS OPPOSITE NUMBER AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AMBASSADOR GOMEZ MANTELLINI, TO EXPRESS LABOR MINISTRY'S INTEREST IN THE GOVERNING BODY DECISION ON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATION ON HOW TO DISPOSE OF THE 1974 ARAB RESOLUTION. BOTH DEFENDINI AND HUIZI HAVE LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY TO PAST EMBASSY PRESENTATIONS ON THIS MATTER, BUT NEITHER HAS EVER COMMITTED THE GOV. THE QUESTION OF MODIFYING ARTICLE 17 WAS NEW TO DENDINI, AND SHE SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE CONCEPT AS A METHOD OF RETURNING THE ILO TO ITS SPECIALIZED MANDATE. AGAIN SHE PROMISED TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE VICE MINISTER AND ASK HIM TO DISCUSS IT WITH GOMEZ, BUT DID NOT COMMIT THE GOV.

COMMENT: OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT THE LABOR MINISTRY WILL ASK THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO THE U.S. PROPOSALS, BUT THAT IT WILL QUICKLY BACK OFF FROM THIS POSITION IF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY RAISES THE ISSUE OF MAINTENANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA'S OPEC ALLIES IN THE ARAB WORLD. END COMMENT.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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